



August 2020

St. Peter's People,

The stories of "search and call" in the Bible have one shared commonality: God leads and the community joins with. Let me explain. Sarah and Abraham, past her child-bearing years and past his interest in child-making years, become parents with a promise from God: blessing on this new generation and generations to follow.

Mary and Joseph, betrothed and not living as a married couple, she a virgin and he anticipating the day of consummation, become parents with a promise from God: they will mother and father the Savior of the world.

Two old, too old. Two young, too chaste. And what about the least child blessed as the best child: David, Joseph, and Jacob? Or the foreigner now a founder: Ruth? Or low-born and no-status now the vanguard: Peter, James, John, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus?

Sometimes congregations approach the search and call of a new minister like the process for hiring a superintendent of schools, or a ceo of a small business, or the executive director of a not-for-profit. They are overly concerned about the pragmatic and technical skill. Will the One visit the sick and elderly and shut-in? Do they preach with a measure of scholarly knowledge, artistic flair, and clear communication? Have they administrative expertise, the skill to lead meetings, and financial acumen? Do they have tools and programs to help with increasing attendance? Will they attract youth and young families, energize those on the side-lines, and affirm and encourage those on the front-lines? Will they return phone calls? Will they acknowledge emails? Will they represent in the public square? Will they participate with their Christian and ecumenical / other faith colleagues? Will they hold regular office hours?

You will find less emphasis for these pragmatic and teachable skills in the search and call process God leads. Neither Hebrew Scriptures or the Gospels and the New Testament Letters illustrate a Business School, corporate-style template for successfully choosing the leader of God's community. There are essential criteria, however. In a word: heart.

Does the One to Come have a heart for God, an intimate and glad fidelity to the Holy One? Does this One have a heart for themselves and their loved ones; fidelity to caring for body, heart, and mind - and - being with their most intimate relationships? Does the One have a heart for the place of service and it's people; will they be with this people: affirming their core values, future hopes, and their lived reality? Will they nurture this community of faith to follow the way of Jesus?

St. Peter's, search and call carries great expectation, fear, and hope. It's fraught when, on autopilot, God follows and the community leads. Instead God asks: will you, Community, and will you, the One who is to Come, offer heart, mind, and body to following the way of Jesus? Will you give your hearts to each other? Will you, together, give your heart to your world? St. Peter's people: be of good courage. God will lead. You will join with. And you and an Authorized Minister will join with each other, to the glory of God.

Blessings and Peace,

Key - August Sermon Scripture

August 2 Matthew 14:13-21

Please join us via Zoom or our Drive-in worship service in August as we share Sunday worship with Jerry Buchs August 9 and August 16. Pastor Jim Edwards returns August 23 and August 30 to bring us Sunday worship while Pastor Arlen is away.



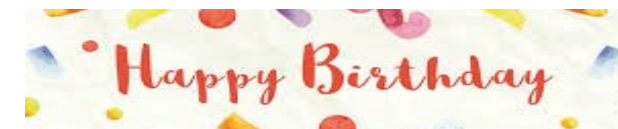
PRAYER LIST



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Jim Brown, Joe Phillips, Richard Berry, Joyce Darakis, Sherry Spratt, Steve Cooksey, Karin Andy, Lois Barnes, George Small, Ruth Kossow, Elaine Thompson, May Poor, Roger Becker, Betty Walters, Bob Spratt, Carol Battenhouse, Darlene Mudrich, Glenn Miskov, Gary Thompson, Ruth Husar, Valentino Dziak, and those dealing with anger management issues, depression, addiction, anxiety, loneliness, loss of human connection. Give thanks for our strong faith and faith family.

If you know of any member who wishes to be placed on the prayer list or to be removed from the list, please contact the church office at (440) 988-4965.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1	Lynn Cambarare	8/11	James Pratt	8/21	Jane Gleason
8/2	Christine Siegmund	8/12	Glenn Miskov	8/23	Jim Brown
8/2	Beverly Mischka	8/13	Terrence Kosakowski	8/24	Julie Swift
8/2	Marjorie Kildow	8/14	James Wiley	8/25	Walter Beale
8/2	Sharon Greenless	8/14	Rebecca Stewart	8/25	Mackenzie Kossow
8/4	Lisa Clotz	8/14	Gregory Mead	8/25	Madeline Nagy
8/5	Rebecca Woods	8/15	Richard Stark	8/26	Donald Swift
8/5	Pamela Miskov	8/17	Brandon Sylkatis	8/27	Patti Lowman
8/7	Ryan Jeskie	8/18	Elizabeth Ross	8/28	Kristal Elliott
8/7	Michael Bonnett	8/18	Dana Swift		

If we missed your birthday, please let us know. Call Katie at 440-988-4965.

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

582 Church Street Amherst, Ohio 44001

Church Office (440) 988-4965

Fax (440) 988-5068

Arlen G. Vernava, Interim Senior Pastor	585-455-2289	pastor@stpetersamherst.org
Pam Schuster, Director of Music & Organist	328-5571	heavenlysaints4life@yahoo.com
Jessie Kubuske, Christian Ed. Director	988-4965	dir.ed@stpetersamherst.org
Katie Yarnell, Administrative Secretary	988-4965	admin.ofc@stpetersamherst.org

Executive Council

Shelley Harmych, Council President	309-6593	president@stpetersamherst.org
Judy McCurdy, Council Vice-President	(419) 433-6598	judymccurdy4@gmail.com
Susan Cherry, Council Secretary	988-7425	scherry@stpetersamherst.org
Lauri Hubach, Treasurer	988-2459	treasurer@stpetersamherst.org

St. Peter's UCC Preschool

Wendy Kosakowski, Administrator & Teacher	985-1972	preschl@stpetersamherst.org
Heather Nail, Teacher		
Jessica Widener, Teacher		
Kerri Kobyłka, Teacher's Aide		

Web and Contact Addresses

St. Peter's Website	www.stpetersamherst.org
St. Peter's Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/stpetersuccamherstoh
St. Peter's Twitter	https://www.twitter.com/StPetersUCCOh



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10-11 AM

Care for Us

Care for Others

Praising God

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

582 Church Street
Amherst, Ohio 44001

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

August 2020



THE KEY

ST. PETER'S U.C.C.
582 CHURCH STREET
AMHERST, OH 44001



Care for Us

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August Preschool News

Where did the summer go? Starting in August the teachers will be getting ready for a new school year. Parent Night is August 19 and will be conducted with parents dropping off paperwork by drive thru style. Later, the handbook will be posted on the church website for parents to access. Children's Open House is Tuesday, August 27 from 4-8. This year we will be giving small group tours to limit larger crowds in the building. School starts Tuesday, September 8. This school year will be very different from what we are used to. The staff continues to monitor the state requirements and changes for the start of the year. It is a very stressful time but we are making sure we start the school year safe for all. Please pray for the staff as we prepare for the beginning of the year and all that is ahead of us.

****We are currently looking for a preschool aide. If you or anyone you know is interested, please call/text Wendy Kosakowski at 440-396-5198.**

We are looking forward to a safe and great school year!

Wendy Kosakowski

Summary of July 20, 2020 St. Peter's UCC Council Meeting Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Susan Cherry, Council Secretary

Attendees: Shelley Harmych, Arlen Vernava, Judy McCurdy, Sam Bonfiglio, Susan Cherry, Kaye Koler, Lauri Hubach, Tom Hollstein, Stacy Gleason, Karel Schieferstein, Christine Burman, Susan Conkle, Amber Surella

Shelley Harmych opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with a prayer.

Preschool

The first item on the agenda was preschool bonuses. Lauri Hubach reviewed how she calculated the preschool bonuses, and what adjustments to the calculation were made for expenses for the months of April and May.

2019/2020 Preschool Bonus Amount--\$3,597.05

A motion was made and seconded to waive the cost recovery (custodial fee, utility fee, and general fund support) for months of April and May and the motion was passed. Another motion was made to approve bonuses for the 2019/2020 school year in the total amount of \$3,597.00 to be paid in the first pay of August 2020. The motion passed. Amber Surella, as President of the Preschool Board, will inform the preschool of the bonus amounts, etc.

A question was raised about the preschool contracts. Pastor Arlen stated that the preschool contracts were not yet finished as the contracts are conditioned upon an approved budget. Pastor Arlen also stated that we needed to review the conditions for reopening. Lauri Hubach reviewed the preschool budget as detailed in the June 2020 Treasurer's Report. In summary, total income was budgeted at \$83,835; total expenses were budgeted at \$101,830 for a net loss of (\$17,995). This projected loss was due to the preschool being able to enroll only 81 students due to State regulations; further, the Council voted on the budget as if conditions allowed in-person instruction. A motion was made and seconded to accept the preschool budget as presented in the June 2020 Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

The question arose as to what would happen if there was a total shutdown of the preschool due to State order? Lauri Hubach suggested that if the preschool is shut down again in 2020/2021 due to a State mandate, for ease of calculating, payment to the teachers should be calculated at their hourly rate and paid over 10 months instead of 12 months, as done in 2019/2020. Therefore they would be paid for what was earned in real time. Pastor Arlen indicated that if the preschool went to online instruction only teachers should fill out a timesheet, show how they spent their time, and sign the timesheet. A motion was made for the 2020/2021 school year the preschool staff would be paid over 10 months and if school is not conducted in-person, preschool staff must report, so that gross hours are accounted for, on work, planning, director duties, video recording, parent-child contact. The motion was seconded and passed.

Administrative Secretary Position

The Council was updated on the contract for the Administrative Secretary position and renewal was discussed. Starting in August the position hours will be 20 hours weekly. A motion was made that the Administrative Secretary position will change to 20 hours weekly as of August 1, 2020. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.

Summary of July 20, 2020 St. Peter's UCC Council Meeting Minutes Cont.

Search and Call Letter

Everyone thought that the search and call letter draft was well done. One correction was made to the dates listed at the bottom of page 2. Those changes were: Interest to serve, change to 8/9/20 and Commissioning Sunday, change to 9/6/20. A motion was made and seconded to send out the Search and Call letter with the date changes listed above. The motion passed.

Recording Equipment

Sam Bonfiglio and Brian Schieferstein are constantly in contact about this issue, the equipment needed, and set up. Council has already approved the purchase of the equipment via a motion at a previous Council meeting.

Substitute Pastors for August Sundays

As of the meeting date, not all Sundays in August have been filled. Judy McCurdy has found a pastor for one Sunday in July and two Sundays in August. She is still looking to fill two Sundays in August.

One Call

Sam Bonfiglio asked if someone could do a One Call announcement this Saturday to let everyone know that we are still having drive in services on Sunday. Christine Burman volunteered to make this call.

Treasurer's Report

Lauri Hubach indicated that there was a pass through payment for \$125.00 for the month of June. A motion was made and seconded to approve payment of the pass through item for \$125.00 for June. The motion passed.

Lauri also indicated that she needs to access an additional \$25K from the Future Fund to pay bills. A motion was made and seconded to allow Lauri Hubach to access \$25K from the Future Fund to pay bills. The motion passed.

Use of Vanco as a payment method was then discussed. Not many use Vanco and fees paid by St. Peter's could be saved, if Vanco was discontinued and users transitioned to other payment services. A motion was made and seconded to discontinue the use of Vanco for payments. The motion passed.

Financial Secretary's Report

Karel Schieferstein gave the Financial Secretary's report for June 2020. Total cash for June was \$9,518.45. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Secretary's report for June 2020, as presented. The motion passed.

Pastor Arlen indicated that Council members should check their inboxes for an email on organist support, which will be sent in the next few days.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed. Shelley Harmych led us in the Lord's Prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

U.C.C. Upcoming events

Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 03:30 PM EST

Special Edition Tuesday for Nurture: SANKOFA: Reaching Back and Stepping Up

We have rescheduled the webinar for a Special Edition Tuesday for Nurture on: Tuesday, August 11th from 3:30 - 5:30 Eastern Time and will have conversation between Rev. Traci Blackmon, and Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak & Rev. Dr. Curtiss DeYoung, co-authors of the book: Radical Reconciliation: Beyond Political Pietism and Christian Quietism. After the conversation, all panelists will be present for some time to answer your questions as you have them. **Note: This is a two hour conversation, and it will be recorded.** To get your own copy of the book, you can click here: <https://www.orbisbooks.com/radical-reconciliation.html>

Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 03:30 PM EST

Thursdays for the Soul: Building Bridges of Faith Across Political Divides
In a time when our nation is becoming increasingly more socially, politically, and spiritually divided, what does our faith require of us? To Register for this event please visit https://ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WodxsLeET8y7bCI4oRRDAA

U.C.C. Upcoming Events Cont.

Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 03:30 PM EST

Tuesdays for Nurture: Supporting Your Pastor so They Can Support You

Tuesdays for Nurture is a Tuesday webinars series which we faithfully focus on education for the people of God. Topics from faith-filled politics, to interviews of key leaders, to "how to's" in congregational life, to the impacts of current realities on the life of the church will be featured. Each webinar will include clear suggestions on what YOU can do to change the church, and the world, towards the world God imagines for us.

To register for this event please visit https://ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KtcSCEuLRdCIBfVunD6nA

Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 03:30 PM EST

Thursdays for the Soul: Sacred Boundaries

Thursdays for the Soul: A webinar series to care for the whole church. Topics are wide ranging, and are focused on the spirituality and care of people. Prayer, worship, music, psalm readings, or compassionate teaching are included. This will be a predictable time of gathering for something to feed your spirit, offered by Faith Education, Innovation, and Formation and Justice and Local Church Ministries of the national setting, United Church of Christ.

To register for this event please visit https://ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MUBvOEAESyWVvPWHMMce_A

All U.C.C. events and updates can be found at [UCC.org/news](https://ucc.org/news)

Bolt VBS update

Kids bored? Ready for some VBS fun? Here's the solution! We are having a "Virtual VBS"! Tell your kids, tell your grandkids, tell your neighbors! **All are welcome and it is FREE!!!!**

The team at GO! Curriculum has designed a 3-day "backyard" VBS that is custom made for churches and families during the COVID19 shutdown. We have thought through every aspect of the VBS experience and made it so user friendly that any family can easily do it at home.

With minimal preparation, easy to follow instructions, and a video that leads kids step-by-step through each day, BOLT VBS is the perfect quarantine-friendly solution for your church or family.

You may do this VBS at your pace and convenience. 3 days in a row, 1 day a week...however you would like. Each day is approximately 1 1/2 hours of materials.

After months of virtual learning, many kids are already experiencing screen-fatigue. With that in mind, BOLT has struck the perfect balance between video content and in-person games and activities.

TO REGISTER: EMAIL: dir.ed@stpetersamherst.org and say you would like to participate. Please include a mailing address so we can mail you an information packet which will include the link to the parent portal.



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General Updates and News

Drive-in and Zoom Worship!

St. Peter's is adding drive-in worship as an additional in-person worship to its continuing ministry. Zoom worship will also continue to be available.

For our Drive-in worship service please enter St. Peter's parking lot via Elyria Ave entrance no later than 9:50 a.m. Upon entrance each car will receive a bulletin and be directed forward to a parking place. Once parked, windows of the car may remain up or be put down during the service. Attendees are requested to stay in their cars during the service. **The audio of the service can be found on 93.5 FM.** At the time of offertory, an usher will carry a basket around to each car to collect the offering. The congregation will sing the Doxology and the Pastor will bless the offering. Upon conclusion of the service, cars may exit through the two exits on Church Street.

On communion Sunday, worshipers should bring their own bread and wine or grape juice to the Drive-in worship service or the Zoom worship service.

If for any reason our Drive-in worship service will be cancelled, a one call will go out to the congregation.

For our Zoom worship you will join one another through a free video and audio conference application. Download to your smartphone, computer, or tablet or use the meeting link below and follow these instructions:

Topic: Sunday Morning Worship

Meeting ID: 524 411 3917 Passcode: 379205

Circle Six Update

Circle Six will be having an organization meeting for the 2020-21 year on September 1, 2020 at 12:30 pm at the Picnic Shelter at Beaver Creek Reservation (913 North Lake Street, Amherst, Ohio 44001—right next to the Amherst Police Department). The picnic shelter is right next to the parking lot, and there are restrooms available across the lot. We have some great ideas for the coming year, and possibly making some changes to make our organization more acceptable to more ladies! Please come, bring your own lunch and drink, and a mask! We will social distance to keep ourselves safe. Hope to see many of you there! If you need a ride, please contact Sally Readinger at (440)222-3414 and we will make arrangements to get you there!

*please
join us*

Treasurer Update

St. Peter's is looking for an Assistant Treasurer. If this is something you are interested in, please contact Lauri Hubach at 440-988-2459 or treasurer@stpetersamherst.org for job details.



Food Bank



The month of July had a total of 65 items donated. Thank you to everyone who donated items to the food bank and to Pam Miskov for taking the time to ensure all the items are donated to Good Shepherd Food Bank.

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